

Pullen Master Plan

Executive Summary

The objective set by the City of Raleigh is the evaluation and development of a **Master Plan** for Pullen Park, a regional park of 68.5 acres off Western Boulevard. Richard Stanhope Pullen deeded Pullen Park as a gift to the citizens of Raleigh on 22 March 1887. It is the centerpiece park for the City, a neighborhood park for the surrounding communities, and a major attraction for visitors to Raleigh. With special resources and deep history, it is unique within the system.

The Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board appointed the Pullen Park Master Plan Committee. The Committee's fourteen members and three adjunct members represent the park users and volunteers, families with young children, seniors, youth, persons with disabilities, surrounding neighborhoods and institutions, aquatic interests, the arts, and historic values.

The **Master Plan Committee** attends 18 meetings, including two site visits to the park. The Committee is presented with background information relating to the City Parks and Recreation system. This education phase also includes site analysis, history, operations, program, participation in a neighborhood forum, and the results of a countywide survey on park facilities. Based on this input, the Committee, Design Consultant, and Parks and Recreation Department Staff develop a list of facilities and activities appropriate and important for the park. From these results, a **Program Statement** indicates the important guiding principles for the park. These principles are open space; the history; the importance of administration, maintenance and management; inclusion of all people; natural characteristics; views within the park; wildlife; parks edges; a welcoming identity; access; circulation; the Amusement Center; physical recreation; the arts; and community activities.

Thirteen concept plans are prepared by the consultant. Plans indicate alternative arrangements for the major site elements and the development of recommended improvements. The planning process reveals the importance of the open spaces within the park and the growing importance of effective use of the Park's resources as future population densities increase in surrounding urban neighborhoods. The process also reveals the rich history of the park and its importance as among the oldest amusement parks in the nation. Study of adjacent uses indicates the existing locations and future opportunities for off-site parking, ensuring protection of the valuable open spaces in the park.

During the fourteenth meeting, a final draft plan is approved by the Committee for presentation to the public at a special call meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. During the public presentation, the plan is favorably received and many comments are provided to enhance the themes presented.

Following the public presentation are two final Committee meetings. During the first meeting, comments from the public and the Parks and Recreation Staff are reviewed for incorporation in to the **Master Plan Narrative**. At the final meeting, the Consultant receives final comments and direction for completion of the Master Plan Narrative and a final Concept for formal submittal to the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board.

The final approved draft Master Plan and Narrative provide five levels of priority for improvements to park facilities under guidance of the principles of the **Program Statement**.

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First Level of Priority:

- New Development and Management Guidelines to ensure harmonious and appropriate future improvements to the park.

Second Level of Priority:

- Overall landscape improvements plan.
- Signage guidelines and improvements.
- New walks and trails throughout the park.
- New 'carriageway trail' connecting major entrances and the Amusement Center.
- New carriageway bridge over the railroad to connect the north and south.
- New park play spaces and amusement facilities.
- Improved Amusement Center buildings and infrastructure.
- Traffic calming and improved pedestrian access from off-site parking.
- Improved picnic shelters and adjoining open spaces.
- Replacement of the carousel house with a larger and improved facility.

Third Level of Priority:

- Improvements to water quality and views of water bodies at the park.
- Improvements to ballfields and the northern park recreation and picnic areas.
- Improvement to Lake Howell picnic areas and strollways.
- Improvements to the Amusement Center parking lot.
- Improvements to the parking lots on the north side of the park.

Fourth Level of Priority:

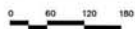
- New Community Center centered in the park near the carriageway bridge for improved programming opportunities throughout the park.
- Improved maintenance and administration facility and parking at the location of the existing community center.
- Renovation of the terraced gardens and fountain.
- Removal of the modern cul-de-sac on Adaba Drive and replacement with open spaces and 'carriageway trail' into the park from the west entrance.
- Additions and improvements to the Arts Center.
- Additional support space at The Armory for Theatre In The Park.
- New Arts Plaza between the Arts Center and The Armory.
- Additional seating in the Aquatics Center.

Fifth Level of Priority:

- New parking decks for additional on-site parking, should off-site opportunities become inadequate. Two locations are proposed.
- First Parking Deck Location: At the upper Aquatic Center parking lot over the existing lower parking lot and additional parking between the Aquatics Center and the proposed Community Center.
- Second Parking Deck Location: A two or three level deck, near the proposed maintenance facility behind the Aquatics Center.

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The proposed **Master Plan** presents recommendations for many changes of varying sizes and complexity. Many of the larger projects can be undertaken in smaller phases and as funds allow, or as needs change. The **Master Plan** provides a vision for the future. However, this vision requires dedication and additional work in the present to ensure that the guidance is established to bring unity and harmony to the park as changes are made in the future.



Note: The Master Plan Narrative provides detailed project descriptions for each component illustrated within the Master Plan Drawing. The drawing is conceptual, intended to convey the vision of the Master Plan. Significant development of each design element will be required to make the vision a reality, taking into account the physical constraints, existing vegetation, safety considerations, and local, State, and Federal regulations and guidelines.

Master Plan for Pullen Park

Established 22 March 1887

